

That's the case for Thurman, 17, who was skipping school and getting into fights in his native Detroit before coming to the ranch 18 months ago.

Raising and halter breaking an orphaned filly named Sweet Pea, he said, has taught him to become disciplined enough to get on track for his high school equivalency diploma, with a goal of one day becoming an animal trainer.

"When my mom comes to visit me, she sees how I've changed," he said. "I used to be very angry and aggressive, and couldn't sit still."

But none of the ranch's success stories surprise Kerr, a former public school teacher.

"I witness a miracle a day here," he said.●

TRIBUTE TO ARLENE SIDELL

● Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I would like to pay tribute to Ms. Arlene Sidell, who will soon be retiring from a long and distinguished career in the U.S. Senate.

Ms. Sidell is the Director of the Senate Commerce Committee Public Information Office. She first came to the Committee 36 years ago, in March of 1963. Ms. Sidell is an extraordinary public servant, who has consistently served all the Members and staff on the Committee with total dedication and commitment.

The Commerce Committee, at a recent Executive Session, expressed its gratitude to Ms. Sidell for all she has done for the Committee and the Senate with extended applause.

Mr. President, I ask that the text of my statement made on Ms. Sidell's behalf at the Commerce Committee Executive Session held on May 5, 1999, be printed in the RECORD.

The statement follows:

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ARLENE SIDELL

Before we begin to consider items on today's agenda for our Executive Session, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge and extend my heartfelt thanks to Arlene Sidell. Arlene, sitting before us, is the Director of the Commerce Committee Public Information Office, and our official clerk for Committee Executive Sessions. This will be the last time we will see Arlene at one of our mark-ups, as she will soon be retiring from an exemplary career in public service.

Arlene began her tenure with the Commerce Committee 36 years ago, in March of 1963. She has served the Senate and our Committee with distinction ever since, and will certainly be missed. Again, Arlene, please know how grateful I am for your dedication, commitment and tireless efforts on behalf of the Members, both past and present, of this Committee.●

TRIBUTE TO ERNIE AND MICHELLE LOPEZ, FATHER-DAUGHTER TEAM

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I want to commend a most unique father-daughter team of New Mexicans for their excellent science and engineering accomplishments. Ernie Lopez, a teacher at Taos New Mexico Middle School and science coordinator for the

Taos Municipal Schools, has consistently inspired Taos students to excel in science and engineering. That inspiration is best characterized by his record of having at least one of his students at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair for 23 of the past 25 years.

I know Mr. Lopez was especially proud this year when his own daughter, Michelle Lopez, won one of the top prizes in this year's fair for the project judged to be the best zoology project at this year's Fair.

I want to add my enthusiastic congratulations to Michelle for the dedication and hard work that she has invested in her winning project. That work should lay a solid foundation for a future career marked by major contributions in her chosen fields.

Ernie Lopez was also honored at the International Fair, for "outstanding accomplishment as a science educator," one of seven teaching awards handed out at this year's Fair.

It's with great pleasure that I salute this superb father-daughter team from New Mexico. They serve as great inspiration to students and teachers in my home State.●

IN MEMORY OF LT. WILFRID "BILL" DESILETS

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to Lt. Wilfrid Desilets, a U.S. Army Air Corps P-47 pilot from Worcester, Massachusetts who was lost over New Guinea on August 18, 1943. His remains were recently located and identified, and I was privileged and deeply honored to assist his family—including one of his sisters, Therese Auger of Portsmouth, New Hampshire—with efforts to bring this case to resolution. I was also proud to attend the military funeral for Lt. Desilets this past weekend and to present the Flag of the United States to the surviving family members. Lt. Desilets was an American hero and a patriot who loved his country, loved his family, and loved to fly. He made the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of freedom during the Second World War, and I am pleased to have this opportunity to recognize his unselfish service to his country.

But no words of mine can match the moving eulogy delivered by Therese's husband, Lt. Col. Elvin C. Auger, USAF-ret. Mr. President, I therefore ask that a copy of the eulogy, as delivered by Colonel Auger, appear in the RECORD.

The eulogy is as follows:

FLIGHT OFFICER WILFRID DESILETS: EULOGY BY LT. COL. RET. ELVIN C. AUGER, MAY 8, 1999

I would like to welcome all of you here today, a day this family has waited so long for.

I want to begin by thanking you, Senator Smith, for all the assistance you have given this family. Senator Bob Smith is from New

Hampshire. He's my Senator. We thank you for being here today.

I have written this eulogy with the hope that all of you but especially our sons, daughters, and now our grand-children will get to know the Bill that we knew.

I would like to start by saying that I did know Bill and his family before he left for the service and I am proud to say that I have been a member of this family for 55 years.

Now Bill grew up in this family with both loving and caring parents. He was the only boy with 7 sisters. To put it mildly these 7 sisters simply adored him, or as my wife would say today, "Bill was simply the best". Bill was a very handsome young man, very religious, started many a day in the service by going to early Mass. He was a good athlete, loved sports and played most all of them.

Now I'm not sure where Bill was on that Sunday, Pearl Harbor Day, but I can tell you for sure where he was very early the next morning. He, with a very good buddy called Kip would be at the Army Recruiting Office to volunteer and serve. Both men knew exactly what they wanted. Bill had to be a pilot and Kip wanted to be a gunner. Hopefully that day they thought Bill's gunner. Incidentally that young man Kip was not only Bill's good buddy, he was my big brother.

Now Bill was so good at writing letters home that to read them today is like reading a diary of his military career. In fact the first days in the service when he was issued his uniforms he would write, today I am a soldier.

Now Bill was off to basic training and as he completed it he would be devastated for the Army was sending him to radio operator school not pilot training. Though you know his heart was broken he would write, at least I'll be flying on a crew. Bill did go and complete radio school but then someone somewhere would decide that this young man should be given a chance for pilot training. Now you can imagine how high the morale would be and how his letters home would sound.

Now Bill was off for the pilot training program, preflight primary flying school, basic flying school, and then advance. Now advance being the final phase would terminate with Bill's graduation. We were all so proud of Bill for he was going to be an Army Air Corps pilot.

Two of Bill's very pretty younger sisters would go to Florida to be with him. They would be there the night before graduation to attend the squadron dance with Bill and his buddies and be there the following day with him for the ceremonies to pin the bars and coveted silver wings on Bill. I know for sure how very proud Bill felt that day, not only for completing his pilot training but also for having those two sisters there with him. I know for sure how he felt for in a couple of years later one of those sisters would be my wife and be there with me at my graduation to pin my wings on.

Now Bill must have finished high in his class for his first assignment would be to the 342 Fighter Squadron. Here he would be flying the P47 Thunderbolt. At that time it was one of our most modern and powerful fighter aircraft we had. Now what was even nicer, Bill would do his transition flying at the old Bedford Airport just 50 miles from home. This would be the happiest time for Bill and his family for when Bill had a little time off we could drive down and bring him home for visits. He was also close enough that on some of his local flights he might do just a little buzzing. What a thrill it was for me to